AFFAIRS (SHRI 1. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) According to press reports, an organisation which calls itself the Islamic Group Almuhajarin had proposed to hold a rally of Islamic fundamentalist militants in London on September 8, 1996. The rally was cancelled after the British Home Office had issued a warning that anyone advocating social unrest or violence would be prosecuted.

(c) Does not arise.

Backlog of vacancies for Postmen in Gujarat

1284. SHRI SHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a balcklog of vacancies for Postmen in the State of Gujarat at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Postal department has conducted any examination for filling the vacant post of postmen in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when all the vacant posts are likely to be filled in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNCATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) There are at present 2 Scheduled Castes and 17 Scheduled Tribes vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The examinatipns have been held on 14.4.1996, 21.4.1996 and 4.8.1996.

(e) These are likely to be filled by 31.1.1997.

Banned Organisations of Assam

1285. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have maintained any record or dossier to indicate total number of members registered with banned organisations of Assam viz. United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA);

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have laid down some criteria to ascertain willingness of members of banned organisation to surrender;

(d) whether Government have any record or dossier to indicate total number of members of banned organisation surrendered so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof? and if not, reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government have taken any steps to rehabilitate the surrendered ones; and

(g) if so, the details thereof with amount spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIARS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), a militant organisation has been banned by the government. Since this outfit is underground, its precise membership cannot be specified.

(c) The policy of the Government has been, on the one hand, to deal firmly with those indulging in violent activities and, on the other, to encourage them to joint the national mainstream. Within this framework, various Accords and Memoranda of underdstanding have been signed with a view to meeting the aspirations of the local people and ethnic groups. Many underground elements have, as a result of the adoption of the above policy and process, come overground and laid down their arms.

(d) and (e) yes. Sir, as per the available information 4993 ULFA had surrendered upto November, 1996.

(f) and (g) The State Govt, is implementing a Scheme for rehabilitation of ULFA militants who have

surrendered. According to available information, the State Govt, have absorbed about 800 ULFA surrenderees in Govt, jobs in various Departments. State Govt, have also released about Rs. 33 crores for rehabilitation of ULFA surrenderees to implement the rehabilitation scheme.

Perspective plan for Indian Navy

1286. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of' DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for a perspective plan by the Navy in view of induction of sophisticated aircraft, missiles and submarines in the neighbourhood;

(b) whether Government propose to allot more funds to research and development so that our country could keep pace with the latest technology development indicating funds allotted during 1996-1997 as compared to 1995-96; and

(c) whether iundigenously developed weapons including 'SANGRAHA" would be inducted into the Navy by 1998 as well as introduction of torpedoes, sensors and simulators etc; if so, the details thereof?

(d)THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirement of funds for Research & Development is worked out in consultation with the Department of Research & Development (DRDO) and is projected to the Ministry of Finance for their consideration, keeping in view the overall availability of resources, national security and the demands of other sectors of the economy. The funds allocated to Defence R&D for the year 1995-% and 1996-97 are Rs. 1358.60 and Rs. 1408.62 crores respectively.

(c) A 10-year national mission for enhancing self-reliance in Defence Systems has been launched, which aims at meeting 70% of annual acquisitions of state-of-art defence systems from indigenous sources by 2005 AD.

The programme SANGRAH' involves delivering different variants of EW systems to Indian Navy for different platforms. The first of these variants is likely to be inducted in the Services in 1998.

A Task Force has been set up to pursue the acquisition of priority requirements of systems and weapons for the Navy in order to meet the threat posed by the recent acquisitions of hardware by our neighbour. The Task Force has identified a number of steps as counter-measures against these acquisitions.

Freedom Fighters' Pension

1287. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters, State-wise, whom the freedom fighters' pension is paid by the Central Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of freedom fighters are not being recognised by the Central Government although they are getting pension from State Government;

(c) the criterial for paying pension to freedom fighters by the Central Government and the details of cases referred to the Central Government arc still pending for consideration; and

(d) whether Government would consider automatic approval of pension of those freedom fighters receiving pension from respective State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Freedom fighters' pension has so far been granted in 1.62 lakh cases. State-wise details are indicated in statement enclosed. *(See below)*

(b) The criteria adopted by the Central